

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1 (canceled).

2 (**currently** amended). The method as set forth in claim 9 [[1]] wherein comparing step (a) includes the steps of:

- comparing the signals in an analog comparator;
- sampling the output of the comparator to produce said binary representation of the comparison.

3 (**currently** amended). The method as set forth in claim 9 [[1]] wherein comparing step (c) includes the step of (d) providing a binary indication of the results of comparing the first count to at least one count threshold.

4 (original). The method as set forth in claim 3 and further including the step of:

- (e) controlling a first accumulator and a second accumulator with said binary indication;

- wherein the first accumulator counts consecutive binary indications of the same value; and

- the second accumulator increments or decrements in accordance with the binary indication.

5 (original). The method as set forth in claim 4 and further including the step of:

- (f) logically comparing the counts in the accumulators to produce a binary signal.

6 (original). The method as set forth in claim 5 wherein step (f) includes the steps of:

- comparing the count in the first accumulator to a threshold and producing a first single bit representation of the comparison;

- comparing the count in the second accumulator to a threshold and producing a second single bit representation of the comparison;

logically combining the first bit representation with the second bit representation.

7, 8 (canceled)

9 (new). In a speakerphone having a line input and a microphone input, a method for comparing a first signal on the microphone input with a second signal on the line input to determine whether to transmit or receive, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) comparing the signals to each other and to at least one threshold to produce a binary representation of the comparisons;
- (b) converting a plurality of binary representations into a first count; and
- (c) comparing the first count to at least one count threshold to indicate whether to transmit or receive.

10 (new). The method as set forth in claim 9 wherein said comparing step includes comparing the first signal to a first threshold and comparing the second signal to a second threshold.